



Raymond Brown, Manager
NCC Douglass Harrison Apartments

The month of February has a special meaning for the African-American community in the United States. It has been observed annually as Black History Month. During this month the contributions of African-Americans to the nation and the world are acknowledged and celebrated. The idea for an observance honoring the accomplishments of African-Americans led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Later, the observance honoring the accomplishments became known as "Black History Month" in 1976. Since the 70's special attention has been paid to the growth of black studies at high schools and colleges in most parts of the United States. Black History is in the making everyday.

I had the opportunity to speak with Ray Brown, Manager of Douglass Harrison Apartments, about Black History Month and the people who have influenced him during his teen and young

Remembering Our Ancestors

adult years. Ray speaks of the activities of the 60's as if they were yesterday. He saw Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in person when King visited Southside High School in 1965. Ray attended Weequahic High School and vividly remembers participating in student protests. The demonstrations were directed at the Board of Education, because it refused to acknowledge a place for Black History in the school curriculum. African-American History Clubs and the

wearing of African-American garb was frowned upon in the schools at that time. He and other students petitioned the school for change - positive change! Little by little, Black History came to be acknowledged and celebrated by all in Newark.

When asked who has influenced him, Mr. Brown responds - without hesitation - "Paul Robeson (1898-1978) for his intensity and patience, and Malcolm X (1925-1965) for his dedication, directness and ability to penetrate barriers." Paul Robeson was an actor, singer, playwright, author. He was a man of great character and achieved in the Arts by going through the established channels. What was most important to Mr. Robeson was WHO he was rather than WHAT he did. When Ray was in high school he would go to the library and read about these two great men in Black History. He feels that they influenced him to pursue the Property Management Field - a field at the time dominated by white folk.

Aretha Franklin (1942-)

is another person who continues to influence him.. "She is the Pioneer of Soul Music - which was seen as Gospel Music then - not mainstream! She sang at a time when Black people were being taken advantage of. She impresses me because throughout the years she kept her father close to her - and to this day - she stills comes back to the black community,"

Mr. Brown feels that these people, his family and the experiences of the 60's have helped him to have faith and believe in something worthwhile, as well as adapt to different people and situations. "No matter where you come from...people are just people."

Ray's face lights up as he tells about the Black Achievers Award he received from the YMWCA at the age of 20. He was a mentor to a teen age boy and helped him through his high school years. Ray is very proud of this and has received much for giving. He encourages others in the black community to be positive mentors for children.

"People feel hopeless - powerless. I don't feel that that is true. No matter how bad things are you can go to someone to be inspired. Young people need to find a center in their life - God, a parent, a grandparent, someone. They need to know that there is hope - that there are things they can do for themselves to change their situation."

As we begin Black History Month, let us learn about our ancestors, our neighbors, our God and look to them for strength, courage and inspiration.

Sister Lucinda Borders, ESP

MANAGEMENT NOTES

"HELP"

BY RAY BROWN

Mgmt. Maintenance Emergency Service System and how to use

Maintenance Emergency Service:

(973) 643-3766

As most residents are already aware, Management has implemented a Maintenance Emergency service system at Douglass Harrison

Week Night Service- Monday thru Friday

Starting 5:01

Ending 8:00am (following morning)

Weekend and Holiday Service

All Day

Residents are requested to call the NCC Central dispatch Station at 643-3766.

Residents must furnish the following info to the dispatcher:

1. First and last name
2. Street address and apt. number
3. Return telephone
4. Brief description of emergency

Residents are requested to follow-up their emergency Service call by calling the Maintenance Dept. the next business day to report the status of their call, i.e., was work completed, delay in responding, quality of repair ok, is additional repair necessary, etc.

Examples of Real Emergencies:

1. Cold or Hot water "line" breaks causing water to flow throughout your unit, as

well as others.

2. Steam line connected to radiator or running through your unit breaks causing water problems.
3. There is no heat in "ALL" your rooms

Examples of items "Not Emergencies:"

1. Drip or minor leak under sinks, pipes, radiators, windows or ceilings.
2. Your toilet, sink, or tub is stopped up.
3. No heat or low heat in one room.
4. Hot water is warm, but not hot enough.
5. Request for Security Service by Maintenance Staff.
6. Lost keys and request for access.

Note: In case of an Emergency, the Maintenance will make temporary repair when necessary. In those instances, permanent repairs will be completed the next business day, during regular working hours.

Residents who obtain emergency service for non-emergencies will be fined as indicated below and their rental account will be billed accordingly.

Fine Schedule

\$25.00 Minimum charge for 1st call

\$15.00 Each additional call within 12-month period. Fines are subject to monthly late charges when not paid by the fifth (5th) of month.

Douglass-Harrison NEWS HIGHLIGHTS is published monthly for the Douglas-Harrison Community of New Community Corporation.

Social Services: Sr. Kathy McGonigle, Sr. Lucinda Borders, Luisa Geronimo

Management: Raymond Brown, Juan Ortiz, Ruperta Nazario, Robert Griffin, Stanley Elliott.

MANAGEMENT NOTES

WINDOW GUARDS

By R. Brown

Management's effort to provide window guards in windows where children reside.

Notices were distributed by Management to all residents requesting that the forms be completed, whether guards are needed or not, only seventy (70) residents out of 600 units responded.

In addition to being a state of New Jersey mandatory requirement, it is something that might quite possibly save a child's life.

Take the time out for your child, not to look at television, but to save a life!

Forms are available at the maintenance Department Office (973) 623-4520, Della for your use. Please come in and complete the form.

"CASH PAYMENTS"

By R. Brown

Senior Property Manager

Under no circumstances, absolutely none, should any money, gifts or materials be given to any employee of NCC at Douglass Harrison in exchange for repairs, apartment assignments, keys, appliances, or any other equipment or service.

All instances of these occurrences should be reported to the Senior Property Manager for action. There are no exceptions to this rule.

All employees are required to wear their I.D. badges, displayed prominently, for resident identification.

All rent and payment plan money orders shall be made payable to :

Douglass Harrison Associates, L. P.

If you are asked to do otherwise, please contact the Senior Property Manager immediately.

"CRACKDOWN!!"

By R. Brown

Management has made a commitment to strictly enforce the terms of your lease. This means that all residents who violate their lease by:

- Causing chronic noise problems
- Having pets
- Creating unsanitary conditions
- Having occupants who are not authorized to reside in the apartment, including relatives
- Breaking into units after being locked out
- Causing damage to buildings and grounds
- Causing damage to neighboring or lower apartment
- Causing damage to apartments
- Creating excessive hall and apartment traffic
- Involved in drug trafficking and sales
- Chronic domestic disturbances
- Children drawing graffiti on surfaces
- Failure to make rent payments as required
- Violate terms of payment plans to clear rent arrearages
- Install unauthorized equipment in their apartments
- Throwing garbage out windows
- Leaving garbage in halls and stairways
- Involvement and arrests resulting from drug trafficking, prostitution, loan sharking, gambling, etc.
- Retail sales, of any kind, from apartment on premises.

Will be prosecuted by the Landlord.

There will be no exceptions. You can lose your apartment!!

On-Site Mgmt. Office Hours

Management Office hours are as followed...

Monday-Tuesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 8:30am - 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

You may select to use the day to:

- Make rental Payments
- Inquire about Apartment Availability
- Set-up Appointments with Mgrs. Recertifications

SOCIAL SERVICE CORNER

59 Somerset A-1 623-6205/6233

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

The teachings of Black History should not end with the close of a month, but should continue throughout the year. In order to see where we are going, we must first see where we have been. Knowledge of Black History should be taught each and every day, and passed on from generation to generation. In doing so, and keeping in touch with the spirit of Black History Month, Social Services has planned the following special activities to celebrate, educate and stimulate your minds.

BLACK HISTORY VIDEOS

Every Thursday, beginning February 12 at 11:00 a. m. there will be a video on African - American heritage. Celebrate Black History Month with us. Come to see the Videos on Thursday the 12th, 19th and 26th, and have some popcorn!

BLACK HISTORY PRAYER SERVICE

Come celebrate in prayer our Black History. The Prayer Service will commemorate those persons who have contributed to Black History. Come to our office Tuesday, February 17 at 5:00 pm for the service.

FEBRUARY THRIFT SALE

Come one come all shop to your hearts content at Social Service's Boutique... not 1 Day but 2 Days. Last month's sale was great, but this month's Thrift Sale is even better. Clothes, all kinds and sizes (children and adult), linens, toys, some appliances and more.... Great Bargains!!!

When???

Thursday, February 5th 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
and

Friday, February 6th 10:00 pm - 1:00 pm

RESIDENT /MANAGEMENT / SOCIAL SERVICE MEETING

Following the Prayer Service for Black Heritage will be our monthly Resident Meeting - Tuesday, february 17th at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. It is important that residents attend these meetings. Try to come...and bring a neighbor.

SECOND ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

On Tuesday, February, 24 we will have our 2nd Annual Fashion Show. We are looking for children and adults to model clothes. We also need a committee of volunteers to help in other areas. If you are interested, contact our office by February 18th. The Fashion Show begins at 4:00 pm. Come share in this fun event!

BROWN BAG MEMBERS

We call to your attention once again that we do not have storage space to keep bags beyond the day that they are issued. It is critical that EVERY BAG be picked up in time. We are not responsible for spoilage of items that require refrigeration. Also, if you do not pick up your bag, it will be sold and you are expected to come in for a refund. Brown Bag Payment is Feb. 6th and 10th, and pick up is Feb. 23rd, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm.



**Happy
Valentine's Day**



Douglas-Harrison NEWS HIGHLIGHTS • February 1998

SOCIAL SERVICE CORNER

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JANUARY

RESIDENT - MANAGEMENT - SOCIAL SERVICE MEETING MINUTES

The areas discussed at the December 16 meeting are as follows :

1) Report from Ray Brown, Manager:

RENT BILLS will be given out to residents each month, beginning in February. A sample rent bill was distributed and explained. Residents were told that their account # would remain the same and if it changed, the resident should let the manager know immediately. With the rent bill residents will also receive an envelope to allow them to mail in the rent. There is an allowed 5 business days before late fees are added, but Mr. Brown cautioned that this was according to when the rent would be received NOT when it was mailed.



D-H residents begin the Prayer Service by reading excerpts of Rev. Martin Luther King's speeches. L-R: John Davis, Regina EL-Amenu, Louise Rox and Phyl Jenkins.



Zora Knowlton gives testimony during Martin Luther King's Prayer Services.

RESIDENT CRIME SURVEYS were distributed to all present. This survey is a questionnaire to determine the resident interest for a Crime Prevention Seminar given by Officer Herbert of the Newark Police Department. Residents are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to Social Services or Management as soon as possible. Questionnaires are available at either office.

2) A question/answer period

3) **SOCIAL SERVICE UP-DATE** Residents were thanked for their support of the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner and encouraged to be involved in the up coming activities during Black History Month.

A raffle concluded the meeting. Gloria McNeill of Somerset Street won a Huge Purple Bear!! She says that her grandchildren will love it. Congratulations Gloria!



Members of NCC Gospel Choir concluded the Service with three beautiful songs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH						
1	2	3	4	5 1:00pm - 4:00pm Thrift Sale	6 10:00am - 1:00pm Thrift Sale Brown Bag Payment	7 9:00-4:00 St. Rose of Lima Flea Market 5:30pm African Heritage Festival
8	9	10 Last Day for Brown Bag Payment 11:30 Senior Advisory Mtg. at St. Joseph's Plaza	11 2:00pm Staff Mtg.	12 Donuts 3:30pm 11:00am Black History Video	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day Holiday	17 5:00pm Black Heritage Prayer Service 6:00pm Res/Mgt./SS. Meeting	18	19 Donuts 3:30pm 11:00am Black History Video	20	21
22	23 3:00 - 4:30 Brown Bag	24 4:00 - 5:00pm Black History Month Fashion Show	25 2:00pm Staff Mtg.	26 11:00am Black History Video	27	28 NCC 30th Anniversary Gala Ball 7:00pm

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